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Executive Registry

10-13/61

BRIEF FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Briefing Memorandum on Space Vehicle Surveillance

1. This is a briefing memorandum concerning appointment of Agency representatives to an intelligence working panel, chaired by the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA), which will develop national requirements for surveillance of foreign space vehicles.

2. Because of dissatisfaction with the progress the Satellite Tracking Steering Committee was making in developing a national plan for tracking earth satellite vehicles, in early August ARPA assumed responsibility for this function. Three meetings have been held to develop a plan of action. This plan is as follows:

a. Organize two committees for inputs into a national plan for tracking; one input will be from the intelligence community, the other will be from U.S. research and development elements.

b. Develop a paper delineating national requirements to be based on both intelligence needs and research and development needs.

c. Examine U.S. assets in being versus stated needs.

d. As a result of gaps which become apparent, develop additional assets for coverage.

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NRO review(s) completed.

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3. Progress to date has taken us part way through step a and into step b . A first draft of the national intelligence requirements reflecting both SEC and GMIC inputs is being reviewed by USIB members of the ARPA working group and will be adopted within the next few days. Statements of capabilities are being completed by the agencies having any tracking or intercept capability. A statement will be prepared by the Office of Scientific Intelligence on behalf of CIA.

4. Having matched requirements (current intelligence, space order of battle, and scientific intelligence) against total capabilities, gaps will be identified and filled. ARPA has indicated they will only act as a catalyst in this effort but will be able to assist financially in considerable measure.

5. Although too early to determine, it is quite likely a physical installation of some sort will be established which will house a national space surveillance center. All governmental programs having any capability to monitor foreign space vehicles will make inputs to this center. The executive agent for this effort has not yet been determined but will be designated after ARPA's catalytic role has been completed.


HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

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9 OCT 1958

Mr. Roy W. Johnson
Director
Advanced Research Project Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I was very pleased to receive your memorandum of 12 September wherein you outlined the progress being made in establishing a national mechanism for surveillance of foreign space vehicles. This problem, of course, demands immediate and complete attention by the U. S. intelligence community.

In response to your invitation to send Agency representation to participate in framing an appropriate mechanism, I am naming [redacted] both from my Office of Scientific Intelligence, as primary and alternate members respectively. As you may already know, these gentlemen are also Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively, of the Scientific Estimates Committee, and in this capacity, can bring a community view to your discussions in the area specifically concerned with scientific requirements.

I understand you have asked for a statement of Agency capabilities to effect surveillance of foreign space vehicles. Accordingly, I have asked Dr. Scoville, my Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence, to prepare such a statement. He will forward this statement to you within the next week.

Sincerely,

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ORIGINATED BY: Allen W. Dulles
Director
Chief, Intelligence Production Staff/SI

1 OCT 1958
Date

CONCURRENCES :

[redacted]
Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence

Date

[redacted]
Deputy Director/Intelligence

Date

OSI/IPS

(1 Oct. 58)

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